



Gachagua Urges Leaders To Focus On Assisting Ruto Deliver His Mandate
Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua has called on lawmakers to focus on assisting President William Ruto deliver on his mandate instead of succession politics.

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News>>Muguka Traders, Farmers Demonstrate In Embu

P. 8. Business activities along the busy Embu-Meru highway came to a halt on Saturday as hundreds of Muguka traders and farmers took to the streets to protest the ban on the sale of muguka (khat) by Mombasa and Kilifi Counties.

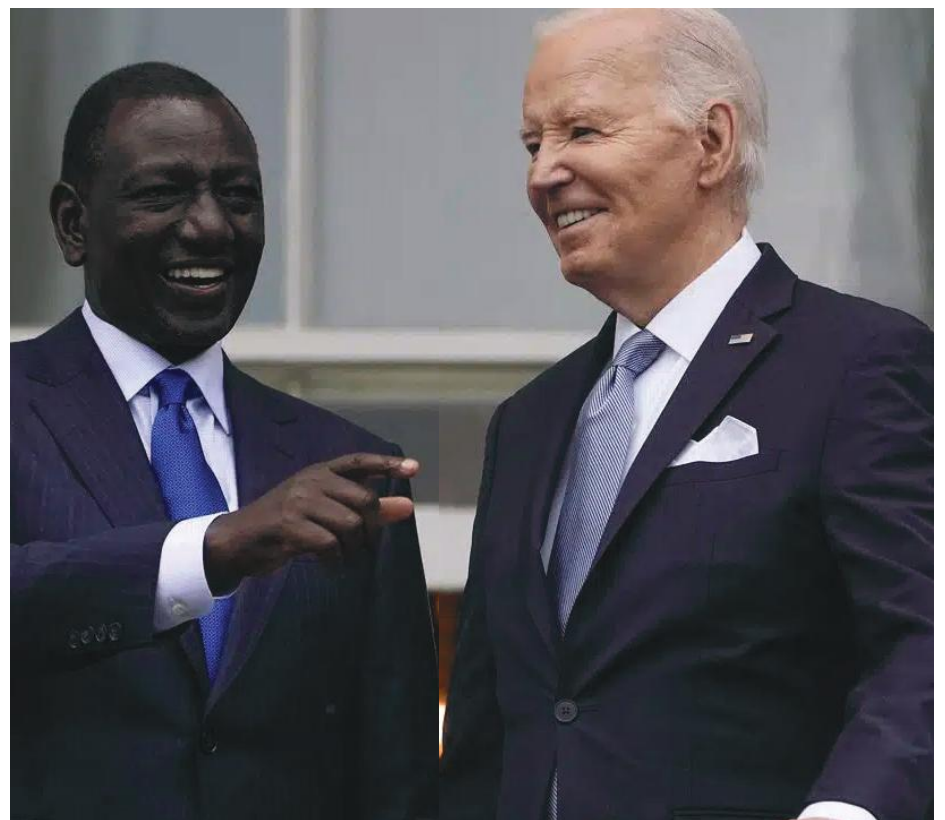


News>>Envoys Urged To Popularize Raila Odinga's AU Bid

P. 12. Kenya ambassadors across the continent have been directed to popularize Raila Odinga's Africa Union Commission (AUC) chairmanship to ensure he clinches the seat come February next year.

Ruto's US Visit Highly Successful - Gachagua

Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua says President William Ruto's State visit to the United States of America has been highly successful, praising the Head of State for striking major agreements beneficial to the country.
The DP said the President has affirmed his great leadership skills among the League of Nations adding that Kenya has earned huge respect globally for raising the profile during the visit to the US.



U.S. President Joe Biden welcomes Kenyan President William Ruto during an official White House State Arrival ceremony on the South Lawn of the White House in Washington

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DATE: 26-28 JULY, 2024, TIME: 8:00AM - 5:00PM

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Microsoft-G42's KSh130B Geothermal Data Center Sparks Nakuru's Economic Growth

By: Suleiman Mbatiah
 @themtkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- “The construction and operation of the data center and the infrastructure will create employment opportunities for local residents, thus improving livelihoods,” she stated while thanking the President for sealing the deal.
- Setting up a regional data hub in Naivasha isn't just about technology—it's also about boosting the local economy. By having a green data center there, it will attract investment and stimulate economic growth in general.



Nakuru County stands to benefit significantly from the establishment of a geothermal-powered KSh130 billion data center by Microsoft Corp. and G42 at Olkaria in Naivasha, Governor Susan Kihika has stated.

A letter of intent formalizing the development initiative was signed on Friday as part of President William Ruto's state visit to Washington, D.C., the United States of America.

As part of the agreement, the United Arab Emirates' AI firm, G42, in collaboration with local partners, will design and build a state-of-the-art data center campus in Olkaria, run entirely on renewable geothermal energy.

The 1-gigawatt datacenter will provide customers access to scalable, secure, high-speed cloud, and AI services to accelerate cloud adoption and the digital transformation of businesses, customers,

and partners across Kenya and East Africa.

Governor Kihika, who accompanied President Ruto on the historical visit, the first by a sitting African head of state in nearly two decades, said Nakuru County stamped its position as a preferred regional investment hub.

“The construction and operation of the data center and the infrastructure will create employment opportunities for local residents, thus improving livelihoods,” she stated while thanking the President for sealing the deal.

Setting up a regional data hub in Naivasha isn't just about technology—it's also about boosting the local economy. By having a green data center there, it will attract investment and stimulate economic growth in general.

The Governor explained that the establishment of the data center would

lead to increased housing projects, road upgrades, improved power distribution networks, and enhanced telecommunications infrastructure.

“These improvements will ultimately support the overall development of the county, making it more attractive for further investment,” she noted, emphasizing her administration's commitment to providing a business-friendly environment.

The presence of a cutting-edge data center, she added, will create opportunities for local residents to acquire new skills and expertise in areas such as data management, cloud computing, and artificial intelligence.

“We have set up digital centers in nearly all sub-Counties. This will cultivate a highly sought-after and competitive skilled workforce, both domestically and on the international stage,” she said in a past address.

Nakuru County has embraced a set of policies, regulations, and practices aimed at simplifying and streamlining processes to attract investors and for businesses to operate more efficiently.

According to players in the energy sector, the project will showcase Nakuru County's potential in renewable energy, specifically in powering large-scale infrastructure projects, thanks to its abundant geothermal resources.

President Ruto hailed the Olkaria green data center initiative stating, “This partnership embodies our aspiration to accelerate technological innovation and build a thriving digital economy for Africa and beyond.”

Editor's Desk

The Mt. Kenya Times



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NEWS IN BRIEF



Lands Cabinet Secretary Alice Wahome announced plans to conduct an audit of land titles in the Coast region, which is plagued by absentee landlords and foreigners owning freehold titles. Wahome revealed that many foreigners in the region have freehold titles in contravention of Article 65 of the constitution, which only allows non-citizens to hold leasehold titles for a maximum of 99 years. The Ministry of Land will take stock and audit the records, and disciplinary action will be taken against officers who connive in the issuance of freehold titles. Wahome also appealed to the judiciary to consider land records when delivering judgements, urging the judiciary to be judicious in tackling land cases. She also urged Kenyans to consult land offices before purchasing land to avoid falling prey to land fraudsters. The Ministry of Land is committed to digitising all 49,000 land titles at the Mombasa registry, with scanners to solve the challenges of lost files and missing documents.



KCA University has launched a charity drive to raise Sh15 million through cycling to fund the education of its needy learners. The University Vice Chancellor and CEO, Prof. Isaiah Wakindiki, said the second edition aims to support 64 bright, deserving, and talented learners who face difficulties in completing their education. The funds will also go towards supporting research and innovation. The 1002-kilometre tour will start from KCA in Ruaraka, Nairobi, to Kakamega County, Nakuru, Kericho, Kakamega, and back through Kisumu, Kisii, and Bomet from Wednesday to Saturday. Dr. Sarah Kilemi, Chairperson of the KCA Foundation, called on the youth to inculcate a cycling culture for their physical fitness and to touch the livelihoods of needy learners.



A surge in motorcycle theft in Homa Bay Town sub-county has sparked outrage among Bodaboda operators, with five motorbikes stolen in the last two weeks. The chairman of the Bodaboda Riders Association, Opiyo Soso, stated that victims were attacked by robbers who disguised themselves as pillion passengers at night before stealing their motorbikes. "We appeal to our security agencies to boost security to prevent theft of our motorbikes," he added. He urged security agencies to enhance safety and bring those who rob them to book. The riders' official, David Juma, described gangsters as those intent on killing their livelihood.



A total of 1,050 young people were enlisted across the county, with 35 youths recruited in every ward. The recruitment exercise was conducted through open balloting, ensuring a fair chance of selection. The recruited youths will be engaged in community service work for two months, with the county government paying them a weekly stipend. Upon graduation, they will be enrolled in local vocational training centres to study various artisan courses, fully paid for by the county administration. Governor Irungu Kang'ata emphasized the importance of the youth service programme in curbing high unemployment rates among the young people in the county. The youths will receive a stipend of Sh500 per day, with the accrued amount being paid on a weekly basis.



The Head of the Agriculture Department in Igembe South Sub County, Jeremiah Mithika, has urged miraa farmers in the Igembe region, Meru County, to diversify their crops to reduce their dependency on miraa. Mithika underscored the need to explore other high-value farming activities, such as apiculture, dairy, and poultry farming, to mitigate market volatility and bolster economic stability. Dairy farming, which has become profitable due to increasing demand for milk and meat, is less prone to market fluctuations compared to miraa. Mithika also emphasised the importance of incorporating crops like mangoes, avocados, vegetables, and macadamia to ensure consistent income.



Deputy Director, Community Relations and Education at the Kenya Wildlife Service, Mary Kirabui, has urged uniformed and disciplined service personnel to uphold professionalism and promote peace while performing their duties. Kirabui spoke during the Central Region annual Thanksgiving service for the uniformed and disciplined services at Our Lady Consolata Cathedral in Nyeri.

The service, which was themed "God Strengthen and Keep Me Secure," paid homage to fallen officers and their families. The National Coordinator for discipline service chaplaincy, Fr. Peter Kimani, commended the officers for being good ambassadors of the government and supporting government initiatives. He called on the officers to look out for each other and complement each other, especially in addressing mental health issues. The Kenya National Chamber of Commerce and Industry Nyeri chapter chairman, Ibrahim Ndegwa, emphasised the importance of security in a complete economic system and economic growth and development.

NEWS PAPER

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Kenya To Gain From US Health Partnerships Following Ruto's State Visit

By: Prudence Wanza

Worth Noting:

- To enhance the manufacturing of medical products, the US committed \$2.3 million to support a Kenyan company, Revital Healthcare, in developing diagnostic tests for HIV, malaria, hepatitis B and C, dengue, and pregnancy.

- The funding will also enable the construction of a manufacturing plant capable of producing 240 million tests per year.

- "USAID and the Kenyan Ministry of Health are partnering to equip all neonatal clinics with Revital-made continuous positive airway pressure machines for babies requiring respiratory support," the statement reads.



President William Ruto with US President Joe Biden..

Kenya is set to benefit from a series of health partnerships with the United States following President William Ruto's historic State Visit.

A statement from the White House indicated that the partnerships aim to help Kenya tackle pressing health challenges, enhance global health security, and support local manufacturing capacities.

To strengthen global health security, Kenya and United States have formalised a new partnership between the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), through which the two governments plan to roll out a customised Public Health Emergency Management training program in all 47 counties.

The agreement will also focus on sharing information, identifying best practices, and developing the Kenyan

National Public Health Institute.

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Kenya will continue to benefit from the \$7 billion support from the US President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) in efforts to end HIV

as a public health threat in Kenya by 2027.

To reduce the impact of malaria, the US President's Malaria Initiative (PMI) is also expanding its procurement of pharmaceutical supplies from Kenyan manufacturers, with a plan to buy up to five million malaria treatments and 475,000 preventive doses in 2024.

Additionally, the US International Development Finance Corporation (DFC) provided a \$10 million direct loan to the Kenyan company Hewa Tele, which supplies affordable and regular medical oxygen to healthcare facilities in Africa.

The US further reaffirmed its longstanding partnership between the CDC and the Kenyan Medical Research Institute (KEMRI) by providing \$12.9 million to support research at KEMRI,

focusing on a wide range of public health issues including malaria, HIV, tuberculosis, and COVID-19.

The collaboration aims to expand surveillance, answer critical public health questions, and introduce novel diagnostic methods.

To advance Kenya's digital health goals, the US committed over \$31 million to set up a digital superhighway to enable a holistic view of healthcare delivery.

This will include \$4 million from USAID Power Africa for solar power solutions in health facilities and initiatives to strengthen community and facility information systems to improve patient care and expand access to emergency medical services for mothers and newborn.

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President Ruto Says Jet He Used For USA Trip Was Cheaper Than KQ

By:Eric Biegon

President William Ruto has broken his silence about the private jet hired for his recent State Visit to the United States.

While defending the decision to charter the plane, the head of state clarified that its cost was far cheaper than other alternatives, including national carrier Kenya Airways (KQ).

“I have noted concerns about my mode of transport to USA. As a responsible steward of public resources and in keeping with my determination for us to live within our means and that I should lead from the front in so doing, the cost was less than travelling on KQ,” the President posted on his X account Sunday afternoon.

Ruto landed back from the US Saturday after a 4-day state visit, the first to be accorded to an African leader in 16 years.



The President described the trip to US as successful. “God’s favour was present, real, and

evident. Our hosts were generous and considerate. We got what we planned for and more. I thank all Kenyans for

the privilege to lead and for prayers, goodwill, and support,” he noted

Muguka Traders, Farmers Demonstrate In Embu

By: Samuel Waititu
@themtkenyatimes

Business activities along the busy Embu-Meru highway came to a halt on Saturday as hundreds of Muguka traders and farmers took to the streets to protest the ban on the sale of muguka (khat) by Mombasa and Kilifi Counties.

The demonstrators, who decried the move as devastating to their livelihoods, blocked the highway within Runyenjes Town, causing massive traffic jams and disrupting daily commerce.

Police were forced to lob teargas canisters to disperse the angry mob that has started barricading the road with stone and burning tires to allow smooth flow of traffic.

The decision to ban miraa, a herbal stimulant crop widely cultivated in the region, was announced by the county governments of Mombasa and



Kilifi this week, citing health concerns and increasing social problems associated with its consumption.

However, the traders and farmers argued that the ban was abrupt and lacked consultation with stakeholders who depend on muguka for their income.

“We were not given a chance to

present our views, the authorities just made this decision without considering how it would affect thousands of families who rely on this trade.” lamented Gibson Kariuki who is a prominent Muguka trader from Runyenjes.

The protesters, carrying placards and chanting slogans, called for an

immediate reversal of the ban.

They argued that Muguka is a major economic driver in the region, supporting numerous auxiliary businesses, from transport to retail.

The farmers explained that the cultivation of muguka is not just a business, but a way of life for many in the area.

“This crop has been our lifeline for generations. It’s what pays for our children’s education, our medical bills, and puts food on our tables,” said an agitated farmer Samuel Gitonga.

Long-distance travelers were stranded for hours as vehicles were unable to navigate the blocked highway. The ripple effect was evident in the supply chain, with perishable goods stuck in transit and deliveries delayed.

Lobbyist Mwaniki Kirangacha read malice in the ban, alleging that it was hatched to protect hard drugs business at the coast that had been dealt a blow by muguka.

Embu Senator Alexander Mundigi said he had already engaged lawyers who will on Monday push for orders to be issued by court lifting the ban to allow business to resume as they seek other avenues of addressing the crisis.

Ruto's US Visit Highly Successful - Gachagua

By: DPCS

Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua says President William Ruto's State visit to the United States of America has been highly successful, praising the Head of State for striking major agreements beneficial to the country.

The DP said the President has affirmed his great leadership skills among the League of Nations adding that Kenya has earned huge respect globally for raising the profile during the visit to the US.

"We are proud of our President. His visit to the United States has earned a lot of fortune that will be beneficial to our country. He has brought respect and honour to our country," the DP said.

The Deputy President spoke on Saturday when he attended the ordination of Rt Reverend John Kiplimo Lelei as Auxiliary Bishop of Eldoret Catholic Diocese at Mother of Apostles Seminary in Eldoret town.

The Ordination was presided over Apostolic Nuncio to Kenya Archbishop Hurbetus Van Megen.

The Deputy President said the Government is focused on delivering ser-

vices to the people and will continue to work closely with the Church in the implementation of the development agenda.

"The State and the Church are one. The mission hospitals run by the Catholic Church are critical in providing complementary healthcare services to the people. We will work together to improve the lives of the people," he said.

At the same time, the Deputy President announced that the Government has released Sh600 million to pay farmers delivering milk to the New KCC.

"The farmers will receive their money because we are focused on improving their lives by ensuring better pay," he said.

Additionally, the Government has set aside funds to purchase maize from farmers in the North Rift and the whole country.

Those accompanying the Deputy President were Roads and Transport Cabinet Secretary Kipchumba Murkomen, Cooperatives and MSMEs Cabinet Secretary Simon Chelugui, Education Principal Secretary Bello Kipsang, Uasin Gishu Governor Jonathan Bii Koti Moja, Nandi Governor Stephen Sang, Elgeyo Marakwet Governor Wisley Rotich, Uasin Gishu Senator Jackson Mandago (Uasin Gishu), Woman Rep Gladys



Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua (left).

Boss, Host MP Julius Rutto. Others were Senators Seki Lenku (Kajiado), Samson Cherargei (Nandi), John Kisang (Elgeyo Marakwet), MPs Samuel Chepkonga (Ainabkoi), Prof. Phyllis Bartoo (Moiben), Janeth Sitienei (Turbo), David Kiplagat (Soy), Joseph Wainaina (Nominated), Julius Melly (Tinderet), Paul Biego (Chesu-

mei), Francis Sigei (Sotik), Maryanne Kitany (Aldai). Others were Muchangi Karemba (Runyenjes), James Gakuya (Embakasi North), Onesmus Ngogoyo (Kajiado North), Jayne Kihara (Naivasha), Njeri Maina (Kirinyaga County MP), Joseph Chererot (Kipkelion East), Johanna Ng'eno (Emurrua Dikir), Ad-

ams Kipsanai (Keiyo North), Gideon Kimaiyo (Keiyo South), Abraham Kirwa (Mosop), Joshua Kandie (Baringo Central), Former MPs Onesmus Ngunjiri, Cate Waruguru, Cornelius Serem among others.

AG Muturi Roots Urges Accountants To Champion Constitutional Values

By: Capital Correspondent

Attorney General Justin Muturi has called on accountants to defend and uphold transparency, accountability, and good governance.

Muturi who spoke at the 41st Annual Seminar of the Institute of Certified Public Accountants of Kenya (ICPAK) in Mombasa on Friday said the constitutional values are central to Kenya's aspirations under the constitutional dispensation enacted in 2010.

"Transparency, Accountability, and Credibility are imperative for ensuring that we all remain truthful to the imperatives of our constitution. This is central to realizing the goals we set for ourselves as citizens when we enacted the Constitution of 2010," he said referencing Article 10.

AG Muturi drew a parallel between the tenets of leadership and integrity

outlined in Chapter 6 of the Constitution and the ethos of the accounting profession.

"When you read Chapter 6 on leadership and integrity, you might think it was written by an accountant," he remarked.

"This demonstrates the pivotal role that the accounting profession plays in the growth and development of our country."

He called on all professional accountants to act as custodians of integrity.

"I urge you, as professional accountants, to be guardians of integrity. Your profession is central to ensuring that the values enshrined in our constitution [are] upheld."

Attendees echoed the AG's statement, reaffirming the vital contribution of accountants to Kenya's governance and development.

The ICPAK Annual Seminar, a cornerstone event for the accounting community, continues to provide a platform for thought leadership and professional development.



AG Muturi drew a parallel between the tenets of leadership and integrity outlined in Chapter 6 of the Constitution and the ethos of the accounting profession/State Law Office..

President Ruto To Open Nyanza International Investment Conference

By: Kenya News Agency

President William Ruto is set to officially open the Nyanza International Investment Conference this week.

The two-day event that starts tomorrow will bring together local and international investors, national and county government officials, and the private sector to explore investment opportunities in the region.

Information, Communications, and the Digital Economy Cabinet Secretary Eliud Owalo said the head of state will lead a team of local and international investors to explore the region's untapped potential.

The conference will unpack existing and potential development challenges and turn them into investable opportunities for investors.

The government's directive to promote public private partnerships (PPP) to spur investments and grow the economy will be in line with the

conference.

Key projects, such as the Koru-Soin dam and the Lake Victoria ring road, will be showcased to investors.

The drive to scale up PPP is gaining momentum, with the Cabinet Secretary for Water Zacharia Njeru negotiating a PPP with investors to fund the construction of the Koru-Soin dam.

Information, Communications, and the Digital Economy Cabinet Secretary Eliud Owalo (left)



The Mt. Kenya Times



Ruto's US State Visit Was Successful



By: Joseph Mutua Ndonga
mutuandongaa@yahoo.com

Worth Noting:

- The previous governments of Kenya had not succeeded ending the recurring menace and fighting organized criminal gangs. The situation was exacerbated by political instability witnessed in our neighboring countries.
- During the campaigns Dr Ruto declared that he will personally lead efforts aimed at restoring peace and security in Kenya and in the region.
- By joining Nato, Pentagon, US military headquarters, and their allies will start offering special training to members of Kenya Defense Forces (KDF). The allies will also support our soldiers financially.
- This support will go along way in fast-tracking KDF's logistic issues and enhancing operational capabilities.
- It is worth noting that this development had been preceded by two leaders signing security and peace agreements.



US President Joe Biden speaks as Kenyan President William Ruto applauds during a White House state arrival ceremony on the South Lawn of the White House in Washington, DC, on May 23, 2024 [Elizabeth Frantz/Reuters].

I followed with keen interest President William Ruto's state visit to United States of America (USA). The critics of the President would draw much of my attention. Kenya did not reap anything that is worth to talk about. As such, the visit was a waste of time besides being a burden to tax payers. In trying to justify the allegations, they would list three reasons. One, the cost of presidential jet that flew Dr Ruto and his entourage to US and back home. The total cost was said to be Sh200 million. Two, on arrival at Atlanta, Georgia, he was given a cold reception. Some would allege that the President was received by a mayor who is equivalent of a member of county assembly (MCA) in Kenya. But when he landed in Washington DC I never heard the critics make the claims. Here, President Ruto was received by the wife of host, US President Joe Biden, and top government officials. Three, Kenya's heeding the call to join North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) as non-Nato ally. These criticisms were also ill-advised, baseless and politically motivated. Let me explain why. The decision to join NATO was a well thought out. As we know, the threats posed by Al Shabaab and ISIS could not be swept under the carpet. The previous governments of Kenya had not succeeded ending the recurring menace and fighting organized criminal gangs. The situation was exacerbated by political instability witnessed in our neighboring countries. During the campaigns Dr Ruto declared that he will personally lead ef-

orts aimed at restoring peace and security in Kenya and in the region. By joining Nato, Pentagon, US military headquarters, and their allies will start offering special training to members of Kenya Defense Forces (KDF). The allies will also support our soldiers financially. This support will go along way in fast-tracking KDF's logistic issues and enhancing operational capabilities. It is worth noting that this development had been preceded by two leaders signing security and peace agreements. The debate around the issue of who had received President when he arrived is cheap propaganda. First, allow me to make this clear. The Mayor is a senior state officer in US and so you cannot compare him with an MCA. Being a state visit, the host, President Joe Biden was fully in charge of Dr Ruto's itinerary. So, I'm sure he had already spoken with state officials in Atlanta and asked them to accord him a warm reception. Remember each state in US is semi autonomy. This means it has enacted its own laws. President Biden has no legal power to dictate the way the state run its affairs. It is worth to note this. Atlanta is the capital city of state of Georgia. It is a commercial and business hub. This is unlike Washington DC which is the seat of US government. I'm sure the critics would have loved to see our President being snubbed in Washington DC. They got ashamed. Besides Biden's wife, he was received by top government officials. At White House, he was accorded full honors. He inspected a guard of honor mounted by US military and received

gun salute. Besides Biden, he held talks with US Secretary of State Blinken and Defense Secretary. The latter hosted him at the Pentagon. Responding to queries touching on hiring of the jet, President Ruto stated. Hiring this plane was much cheaper compared to using a Kenya Airway (KQ) aeroplane. I'm sure his remarks were based on experts opinion. The media quoted a comment Dr Ruto had posted in one of his social media handle. By focussing on reception, the critics had turned deaf to the real issue. The question should have been. Did the trip meet the expectations of Kenyans? The answer is Yes. President Ruto returned back with bagful of goodies totalling to Sh1.2 trillion. A week before Dr Ruto and his delegation flew out, I wrote in this column an article focusing on debate on whether he address the joint US Congress. In his response, Speaker Johnson Mike stated that the house was ready to give him this rare opportunity. He however said the Kenyan head of state will meet and address members of US Congressional Delegation which he will personally lead. This meeting took place a day before US President Joe Biden hosted his Kenyan counterpart President William Ruto at White House. The bilateral talks focussed on a wide range of issues of mutual interest between the two nations. After the talks, the two leaders addressed a joint press conference. Biden stated that the United States of America will continue support Kenya in different sectors of development. This visit comes at the right time.

While bearing in mind the visit coincides with 60 years of US-Kenya diplomatic relations, it will deepen and strengthen our ties. On his part, President Ruto echoed Biden's sentiments. He listed the areas of cooperation and stated that Kenya will continue to cultivate and play a bigger role. This is in strengthening our ties for mutual benefits of our peoples. Mr President, America has so far played a key role in lifting Kenya. We appreciate your support. When Dr Ruto left the country, I wrote in this column that Kenya was poised to reap big from this visit. In day one of this visit, the President was hosted by top managers of the Center for Diseases Control (CDC). After the talks, he witnessed the signing of lucrative deals and agreements by members of his delegation and the Center's officials. It is worth noting that the CDC had over years been helping Kenya to battle infectious diseases, in research work and development of vaccines. President Ruto thanked officials of Center for agreeing to redouble this support. Dr Ruto had earlier presented a powerful speech at Jimmy Carter Library which mainly focussed on Democracy, good governance and the war against corruption. He minced no word in challenging the powerful nations including the US that embraced democratic values and principles to help in entrenching these virtues to developing countries. In Kenya, he reiterated his commitment to win the war against corruption is unstoppable. Dr Ruto later held talks with the chief executives of the world renowned Coca Cola beverages company. The executives agreed to increase their investments in Kenya to the tune of 23 billion. President Ruto also managed to strike a deal during which the US agreed to give Kenya financial support totalling to Sh478 billion. Notably, before his host, President Joe Biden, sent out this invitation, he had called Dr Ruto and discussed the issues that will feature during the bilateral talks. This is a big honor for President Ruto. He will join the six world leaders who had been hosted by a sitting President of US for such forum at White House. They include Prime Ministers of Japan, India, South Korea, Australia and Canada. It is worth noting that President Ruto had previously made three visits to the US. But the latest one is a landmark one because it is a state visit. I'm sure this visit will also give Dr Ruto an opportunity to review the progress of the deals and agreements he had

Envoys Urged To Popularize Raila Odinga’s AU Bid

By: Chris Mahandara

@themtkenyatimes

Kenya ambassadors across the continent have been directed to popularize Raila Odinga’s Africa Union Commission (AUC) chairmanship to ensure he clinches the seat come February next year.

National Assembly Speaker Moses Wetang’ula said the envoys and retired emissaries have been directed to make use of their contacts in the different African countries to give impetus to the campaign.

“The envoys and those of us who have worked in the foreign affairs docket have instructions from the president to make use of our immense contacts across the continent of Africa to ensure Raila sails through,” he said.

Wetang’ula asked the envoys to popularize Raila Odinga’s bid through

their respective bids, adding that the government will make every effort to ensure that he wins the seat.

Speaking at Rabuor Primary School in Kisumu County during the home coming ceremony for Kenyas ambassador to Egypt Fred Outa, the Speaker said Raila Odinga was not a candidate by himself, but was being fronted and supported by the government to make the bid a success.

On his part, Outa who thanked president Dr. William Ruto for the appointment said he was going to do everything possible through his mission in the North Africa state to deliver victory for Raila.

“This is a directive from the appointing authority and we are taking it very seriously. Next week I will be travelling to Eritrea to plead with the president to support Raila Odinga’s bid,” he said.

He urged his colleagues across the continent to take the campaign seriously to deliver victory for Raila and



Kenya.

If successful, Raila Odinga will replace former Chad Prime Minister Moussa Faki whose term comes to an end in February.

Various leaders who attended the

home coming ceremony lauded President Dr. William Ruto for considering Fred Outa, ICT Cabinet Secretary (CS) Eliud Owalo, interior Principal Secretary Dr. Raymond Omollo for key positions in government despite

the region not having voted for him in big numbers during the 2022 general elections.

Karua Wants Agriculture Ministry To Come Clear On Legality Of Miraa

By: Eric Biegon

Narc Kenya party leader Martha Karua now wants the government to address the legality of Miraa and Muguka farming and sale in Kenya.

Addressing the recent decision by some two Coastal counties to prohibit the sale of the two crops in their jurisdictions, Karua noted that the Ministry of Agriculture ought to clear the air over whether it is unlawful to trade the two crops.

She cites regulations that acknowledge them as legitimate and permissible.

“In the matter of Muguka ban in Mombasa and Kilifi Counties, what is the position of the Ministry of Agriculture in view of the Crop (Miraa) Regulations 2021 which recognizes both Miraa and Muguka as legitimate? There is an urgent need to resolve this contradiction,” she posted on her X account

The two counties last week ordered

the closure of all retail and wholesale outlets dealing in the stimulant, amid an outcry by Miraa farmers and traders.

Narc Kenya party leader Martha Karua



Raising Cases Of Drugs Abuse In Northern Kenya A Concern, Pastor Dorcas

By: OSDP

The Spouse of the Deputy President Pastor Dorcas Rigathi has expressed concerns over increased cases of drugs and substance abuse in the Northern part of the country.

Speaking at Thika High School during the annual Education and Family Day Pastor Dorcas said many youths in the region end up doing very unspeakable behaviors as a result of their addiction to drugs.

“It is worse than you think, right now from the north there are coming injectables that are being brought to our children to a point they are even unable to control their sexual urges,” she said.

“In the world we are living today, we have merchants of death and we have barons who are out there to destroy our youthful population in Kenya and Africa but our young men must be careful not to fall into their traps that



The spouse of the Deputy President Pastor Dorcas Rigathi takes a picture with some of the best performing former students of Thika High School in Kiambu County during the school's prize giving day on Saturday. Photo/OSDP.

will destroy you,” she said.

Pastor Dorcas also warned the more than 2,000 students of Thika High School to keep away from companies

that would lead them into alcoholism, drugs and substance abuse.

She is now calling for collaborative efforts in saving the boychild across

the country.

Thika Town MP Alice Nganga and EALA MP Maina Karobia pledged to support Pastor Dorcas in saving the

boychild.

Senior Lawyer Kamotho Waiganjo lauded the efforts by Pastor Dorcas in saving the boychild saying that it has been a concern in many parts of the country. Waiganjo said in his locality he has noted with concern lack of confidence among the boychild between the age of 27 Years and 35 Years.

Over 67 students of Thika High School benefitted with glasses from the office of Pastor Dorcas after a screening exercise was conducted. During last year's KCSE exams 32 students scored above a mean grade of A- while 350 of them qualified for university.

Others present included The School Board Chair Rev. David Gathanju, School Chief Principal Julius Mura, The Central Regional Director of Education Dr. Peter Munene, Thika West DCC James Wanyoike, Parents among others.

Ruto's US State Visit Was Successful

By: Our Reporter @themkenyaintimes

Contd from Page 11

signed earlier with chief executives and industries of US big companies.

In one of President Ruto's previous visit, I wrote an article that goes.

Upon arrival, the president immediately started meeting the chief executives of leading American based companies, industries as well as top businesspeople.

The talks have borne the fruits as he had managed to woo them to come and invest in Kenya.

In one agreement, he secured a grant amounting to Sh8.7 billion.

This support was offered by Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC), an independent US government foreign aid agency. MCC focuses on undertaking programmes meant to alleviate poverty.

These funds will be spent in assembling and rolling out of the electric buses in the city of Nairobi.

This will be a key step towards mitigating the effects of the climate change.

The use of fossil fuels which are biggest polluters of climate and environment would drop drastically.

That visit to US had come just a few days after convening Africa Climate

Summit in Nairobi.

The adaptation was one of the key agenda items.

On this, the delegates passed a resolution outlining the strategies to move way from non-renewable energy to renewable energy.

In Kenya, this has started in earnest. President Ruto is pioneering this process meant to save humanity from extinction.

Raom Center, the assembling company of 51-seater electric buses will based here in Nairobi.

Once charged, the bus will cover a distance of 200 Kilometers. The recharge will take two hours.

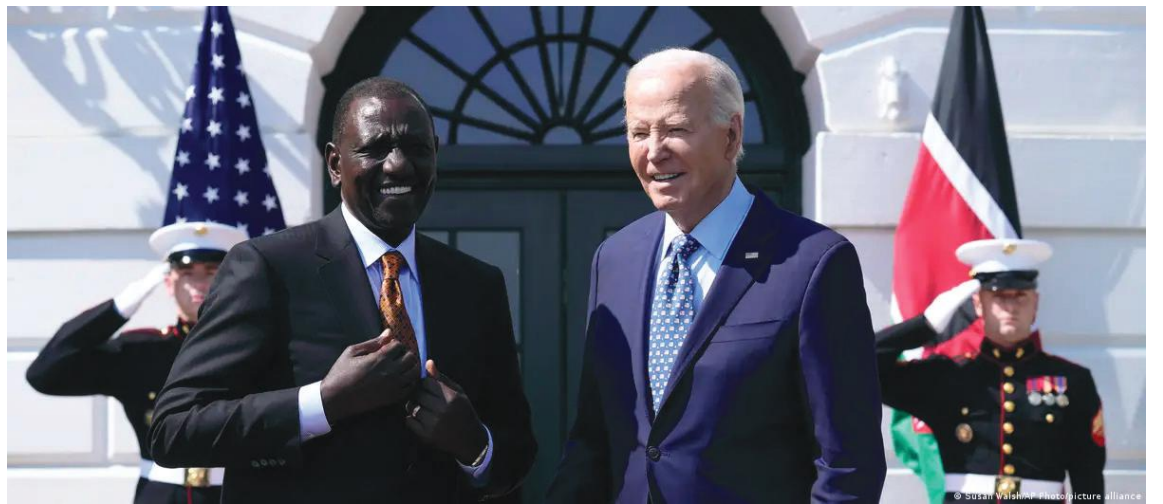
Some of these electric buses will be plying intercity.

There will be no cause for alarm. The charging stations will be established around the country.

Let me now go to the second point.

President Ruto have brought the dream of rolling out Bus Rapid Transport (BRT) to a reality. This dream had been delayed for a long time. I remember it was first conceived by former President Mwai Kibaki. President Uhuru Kenyatta's efforts to revive this project also failed to bear the fruits.

Majority of Kenyans, who use public transport every day to travel to and from their places of work, will become the biggest beneficiaries.



Kenyan President William Ruto with US President Joe Biden.

This is because the electricity is cheap. So, the bus fares will drastically come down.

President had earlier visited Silicon Valley in Fransisco. We saw him being warmly received and welcomed by the Presidents and Chief Executives of the giant tech companies, including Google, Microsoft, Intel and Apple.

Reducing the cost of thier services and sharing thier experiences with Kenyan techies and innovators topped the list. Dr Ruto's diplomatic and oratory skills

would once again shine as he managed to convince each company to buy his ideas and plan.

He had witnessed members of his delegation sign a number of lucrative deals tailored to promote and elevate Kenya as a technological hub in the region, Africa and globe.

Countries with advanced technology were the leading economies and richest. President Ruto was also aware about the important role of the internet in these endeavours.

Therefore, he would not leave the Silicon Valley without meeting the President of the world leading internet provider.

The high cost is one of the issues that Dr Ruto would bring to light. This paved the way for signing of the agreements to reduce the cost.

Joseph Mutua Ndonga is a writer and political analyst based in Nairobi

The Painful Blessings



We didn't ask for much
We only prayed our wishes
Our prayers were not only answered
We were granted in excess.
The painful blessings.

No more jubilation songs
We are left with sorrowful tears
What we had built for decades was
Flooded and plained in seconds
The painful blessings.

Raining cats and dogs
Rivers turning into oceans
Village turning into swamp
The gardens are no longer for planting
They are oasis

Painful blessings
Death fall from heaven
Child cries in search mother
Mother's wailing in a search.
The painful blessings

Helpless fathers in dimming hope of
searching
The rescued are half dead
No beginning or rather hope to rebuild
Floods deprived our pride.
The painful blessings

@prof George Daniel Meyu

Man And Soul



A difficult concept the purpose of what
is who is reduced to abstraction. Various
for example some of them are such that
you can say why they are not like you. On
the contrary some of them are such that
looking at them you wonder what the
world will be like when this person leaves
this life. If he leaves the evil in his hands

what will happen to the children how
will the troubled mothers continue their
lives His place is immediately his love has
penetrated to the depths of your heart.
Sometimes in your life you meet such
people whose feelings for you will haunt
you like a bad dream until the end of your
life.

You can't sleep for the rest of your life.
Then you start thinking with your aching
heart why? Why are people like this? They
build their lives on false pretenses even if
they keep stabbing you in the back.

👉 Shavkatova Gulsina

Mother Misses



Even though it's midnight
I will share your joys.
The eyes are wet with longing,
My mother is waiting for me at home.

I miss you baby,
They call my tulip.
I'm going, I'm crying in my heart,
My mother is waiting for me at home.

One look hurts me
It also gives light to my heart.
Let's go without waiting,
Ex can be anything.

My fist is munisim,
Longing torments me.

Come, my dear,
My mother is waiting for me at home.

If I don't go, I won't be
Two months have passed.
O mother of your love,
There is no other ointment for me.

Wait, I'm on my way,
I'm going to you.
This is your son Salahiddin.
It's bad when you miss.

Salahiddinjon Sayfiyev

Born in 2003 in Urgut district of Samarkand region. Currently, he is a 2nd-year student of Uzbek language and literature at Alfraganus University, Faculty of Philology. Creative guy. A future journalist interested in journalism. Today, Alfraganus is the head of the "Poetry and Articles" club at Alfraganus University. Reporter of several newspapers. His poems have been published in newspapers and magazines. Having done scientific work, he has the "Leader of Science" badge, the "Follower of Ahmad Al-Farghani" badge and medals.

If I Die, I Will Not Leave Your Arms



Oh, my fatherland,
My motherland,
Uzbekistan, my soul rests in your shadow.
There is no one as kind as you.
I resemble you.

I won't sell Rome, you bastard.
The motherland is our fathers' place, which is dear to everything for us. The homeland is a sacred place for everyone. It is the abode of our ancestors who hold great significance to their homeland. No matter what is said about the homeland, something is always missing. This place has no value and no comparable power. There are no words to describe the motherland, no pen to write. Love and loyalty to the country pulsate in the hearts of every person. When the concept of homeland and the concept of independence merge, hearts light up. Because the feeling of the homeland is close to the heart for all peoples, so is the concept of independence. The most gratifying thing is the presence of Uzbekistan among more than 190 independent countries. However, this ancient land has a bloody past, with sons who sacrificed their lives for the peace and independence of the country.

As Muhammad Yusuf said:
My country, you have inimitable symbols,
You have stories that made stones cry.
My soul hurts thinking about your past.
Your chest is full of martyred sons.

This land did not fight against evil; we owe it to the souls of our martyred ancestors. We all know from history that our ancestors dreamed of living today. It is not difficult to understand, from the bravery of Shiroq, Tomaris, and Amir Temur, that the defense of the homeland was their highest goal. Love for the motherland motivates an ordinary patriotic soldier to enter the battle of life and death. However, this is not necessary now. Our country is a peaceful country. However, in any era, young people had obligations to the motherland. Currently, our highest task is to make our own contribution, even if it is small, to the development and prosperity of the country. The country needs educated, brave young people. We are the creators of the beautiful tomorrow of the country. President Shavkat Mirziyoyev said: "We have an enviable history, we have enviable ancestors, and now we must have an enviable future." The future has always been in the hands of those with great spirituality. Therefore, we should study for the future of our country and live up to the trust of our ancestors. We need the motherland, and the motherland needs us. But in my opinion, the country can live without me, but I cannot live without the country.

My name is Bahramova Ifora Sunnatilayevna. I was born on August 2, 2008 in Kuyi Chirchik district of Tashkent region. Currently, I am a student of the first year of the Academic Lyceum at the Tashkent University of Uzbek Language and Literature named after Alisher Navoi. I'm also a member of the "Parvoz" literary circle organized by Nargiza Asadova, a member of the Writers' Union under the Lower Chirchik Hokimiyat. My poems and stories have been published several times in district newspapers and magazine "Gulshan". I am the winner of the Republican stage of the "Story of the Year" competition and several other competitions.

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Former President Uhuru Kenyatta Lands In South Africa Ahead Of Elections

The African Union Commission (AUC) appointed Kenyatta to lead the African Union Election Observation Mission (AUEOM) for the Elections in South Africa.

By: Eric Biegen

Retired President Uhuru Kenyatta arrived in Johannesburg, South Africa Saturday evening, ahead of the country's upcoming General Elections on May 29, 2024.

The African Union Commission (AUC) recently appointed Kenyatta to lead the African Union Election Observation Mission (AUEOM) for the poll.

"This appointment highlights the continent's shared commitment to promoting transparency, credibility, and the integrity of electoral processes across its diverse nations," a statement from the Retired President's office said

Election observation missions play an essential role in safeguarding the

integrity of electoral processes by providing impartial assessments and recommendations.

As the head of the AUEOM, Kenyatta will be leading a team of experts and observers who will be responsible for monitoring various aspects of the electoral process, including polling and the tabulation of results.

The people of South Africa will be casting their votes to elect a new National Assembly and the Provincial Legislature in each of the nine provinces.



Retired President Uhuru Kenyatta arrived in Johannesburg, South Africa Saturday evening

State Corporations' Boards Of Directors Required To Finalize Self-Evaluation Exercise

By: KBC Digital

Head of Public Service Felix Koskei has directed Chief Executive Officers of all state corporations asking them to conclude the evaluation of board members by mid-next month.

Koskei, in a Circular, made it clear that self-evaluation by boards of directors remains a critical annual performance milestone for all State Corporations and warned that any non-compliance will not be condoned.

"Mwongozo; the Code of Governance for State Corporations, and Government policy as communicated vide circular Ref. No. OP/CAB.1/43/1 of 29th June 2011 requires Boards of Directors in State Corporations to carry out annual performance evaluations and to file reports with the parent Ministry and

the State Corporations Advisory Committee (SCAC)," read the circular from the Head of Public Service

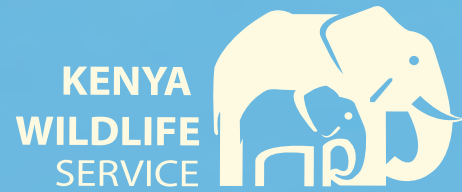
He said all Board Members' data and particulars ought to be updated in the State Corporations Information Management Module (SCIMM) system by 15th June 2024. He also directed all state agencies to update and report promptly whenever changes occur in the Board membership

"It is appreciated that all Boards that undertook the evaluation in FY2023/2024 successfully evaluated their Corporation Secretaries and Internal Auditors and the feedback on the milestone has greatly influenced Kenya's private sector and the international community," said Koskei in the memo

He said it was unfortunate that a few State Corporations failed to undertake the evaluation and disclosed that necessary corrective measures are underway.



Head of Public Service Felix Koskei .



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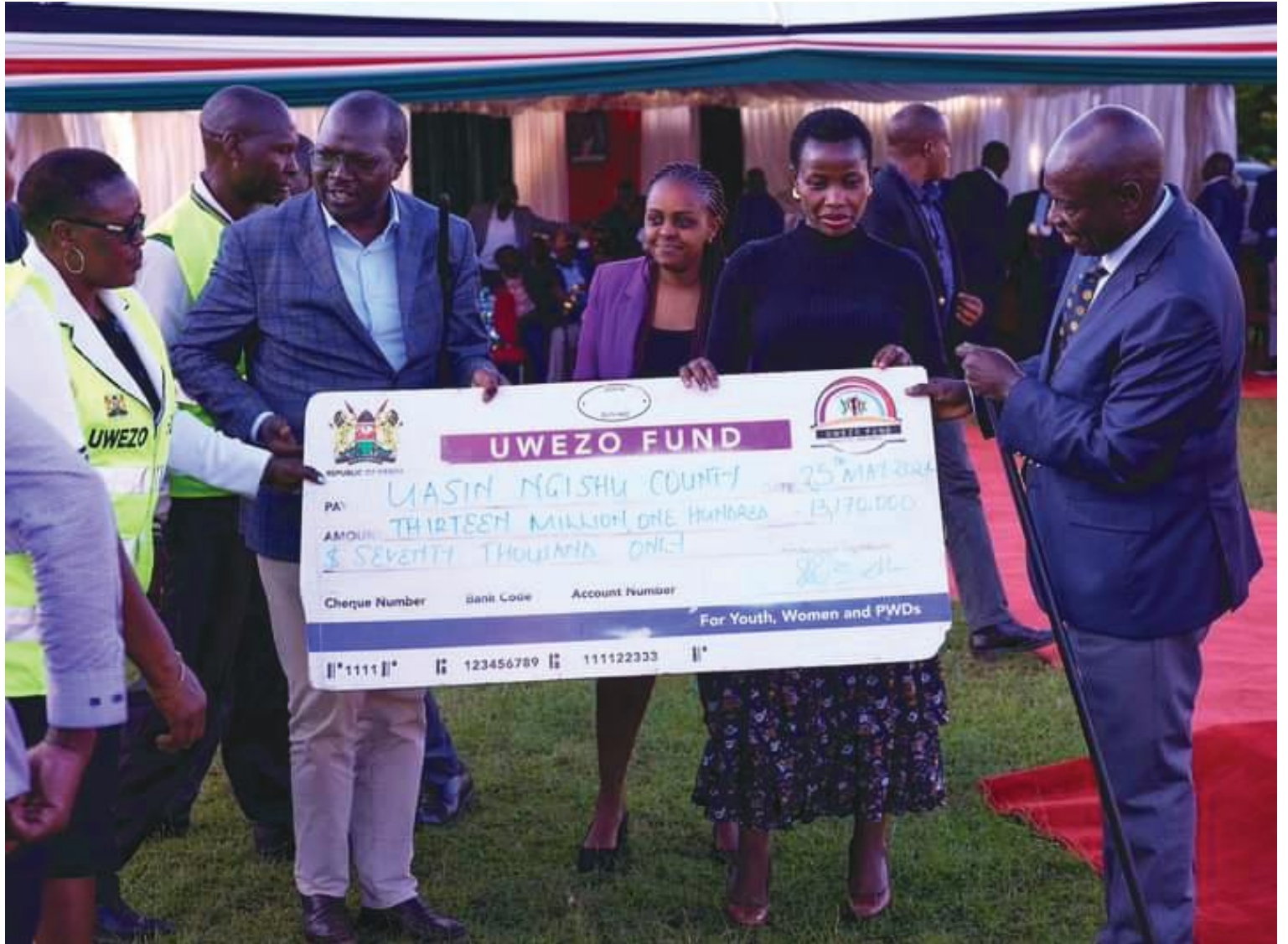
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Karibu, Tutunze Pamoja!

Gachagua Urges Leaders To Focus On Assisting Ruto Deliver His Mandate

By: DPCS



Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua (Right)

Worth Noting:

- “We said we will support the President fully. We support the President 100%. We will be behind the President because we have a 10-year debt. And we will pay the debt. We are working well with the President,” he said.
- The Deputy President said the focus should only be on ensuring the President’s agenda is fully rolled out for the benefit of the people.
- “As I lead as Deputy President together with Cabinet Secretaries, Governors, senators, MPs, our focus should only be to help the President succeed. Period. Everything else can wait. 2032 succession politics must stop,” he added.

Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua has called on lawmakers to focus on assisting President William Ruto deliver on his mandate instead of succession politics.

The Deputy President said it is wrong for elected members allied to the Government to waste time moving from one county to another politicking instead of serving those that elected them and helping in implementation of the Kenya Kwanza Administration’s agenda.

Speaking in Uasin Gishu on Saturday when he graced a fundraiser in aid of Kesses Empowerment Programme, the DP said political tourism is causing the lawmakers to lose focus.

“I urge the MPs to stay in their Constituency and serve their people. The habit of political tourism must stop. This is what is giving us trouble,” he said at the event held at Seiyo Secondary School in the Constituency.

The DP also said his resolve to support the President is firm and will not be shaken.

“We said we will support the Presi-

dent fully. We support the President 100%. We will be behind the President because we have a 10-year debt. And we will pay the debt. We are working well with the President,” he said.

The Deputy President said the focus should only be on ensuring the President’s agenda is fully rolled out for the benefit of the people.

“As I lead as Deputy President together with Cabinet Secretaries, Governors, senators, MPs, our focus should only be to help the President succeed. Period. Everything else can wait. 2032 succession politics must stop,” he added.

The DP was accompanied by Roads and Transport Cabinet Secretary Kipchumba Murkomen, Cooperatives and MSMEs Cabinet Secretary Simon Chelugui, Uasin Gishu Governor Jonathan Bii, Senators Jackson Mandago (Uasin Gishu), Samson Cherargei (Nandi), John Kisang (Elgeyo Marakwet), host MP Julius Rutto, David Lagat (Soy), Adams Kipsanai (Keiyo North), Onesmus Ngogoyo (Kajiado North), Samuel

Chepkonga (Ainabkoi), Paul Chebor (Rongai), Jayne Kihara (Naivasha), Francis Sigei (Sotik), Gladys Boss (Uasin Gishu Woman Rep), Njeri Maina (Kirinyaga Woman Rep), Julius Melly (Tinderet), Joshua Kandie (Baringo Central), Gideon Kimaiyo (Keiyo South), Musa Sirma (Eldama Ravine), Johanna Ngeno (Emurua Dikirr) among others.

The leaders said they will support the President and Deputy President to deliver the Government’s agenda as promised to the people.

“President Ruto and the Deputy President are one. We are behind them and no one will come between them,” said Rongai MP Paul Chebor. “All of us from the South Rift to the North Rift, we are fully behind the President and Deputy President. We support you as you assist the President to serve Kenyans,” said Sotik MP Francis Sigei.

“We know only one President, one Deputy President. We remain loyal to the President and the Deputy President,” said Keiyo North MP Adams Kipsanai.

“The Kenya Kwanza government is united and strong. We have decided we have only one President and one Deputy President. We can’t work so hard for this government and then we start having issues. Many of our people suffered when we were fighting for this Government but the Deputy President led the people to fully support the President. We will stand with the DP all through,” said Emurua Dikirr MP Johanna Ngeno.

“The Deputy President stood with us during tough times, he was arrested for standing and supporting the President. We will stand behind you and the President. Feel comfortable knowing we will not go behind your back,” said Tinderet MP Julius Melly.

“We will not allow anyone to come between the President and the Deputy President. We will be united behind all the two leaders,” said Eldama Ravine MP Musa Sirma.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



State Of Healthcare Infrastructure

The deplorable state of healthcare infrastructure in many parts of Kenya has also been a major concern. Many facilities are in dire need of renovation and modernization. The lack of proper infrastructure makes it challenging for healthcare workers to perform their duties effectively and safely.

The strike has had a severe impact on the public, particularly on vulnerable populations who rely heavily on public healthcare services. Many patients have been left unattended, leading to a crisis in both urban and rural areas. Emergency services have been stretched thin, and the overall healthcare system is struggling to cope with the increased demand.

Maria Wanjiru, a mother of three, shared her ordeal of traveling over 50 kilometers to find a hospital that was still operational. "I had to leave my sick child at home because I couldn't find help nearby," she said, tears streaming down her face.

John Omondi, a diabetic patient, has missed several crucial treatments due to the strike. "I depend on the local clinic for my insulin shots, but now I don't know where to go," he lamented. The Kenyan government has been attempting to negotiate with the striking healthcare workers. Several meetings

have been held, but so far, no concrete agreement has been reached. The government has promised to address the grievances, but healthcare workers demand immediate action rather than mere assurances.

Reactions from Various Stakeholders

Healthcare Workers' Unions

The unions representing doctors and nurses have remained steadfast in their demands. Kenya Medical Practitioners and Dentists Union (KMPDU) Secretary-General, Dr. Davji Bhimji Atallah, said, "Our demands are not new. We have been patient, but now is the time for the government to act decisively."

Several civil society organizations have expressed solidarity with the healthcare workers. Amnesty International Kenya called for urgent dialogue and resolution. "The right to health is fundamental, and the government must prioritize resolving this crisis," said Irungu Houghton, Executive Director of Amnesty International Kenya.

International Community

The international community has also weighed in, with various humanitarian organizations offering support. The World Health Organization (WHO)



has expressed concern over the prolonged strike and its implications on public health.

Experts suggest that third-party mediation might be necessary to break the deadlock. This approach could facilitate a more neutral ground for discussions and lead to a quicker resolution.

There is a consensus that long-term reforms are needed to prevent such

strikes in the future. This includes improving working conditions, ensuring timely payment of salaries, and investing in healthcare infrastructure.

Engaging private sector support through public-private partnerships could help alleviate some of the immediate pressures on the healthcare system. Such collaborations could provide much-needed resources and expertise.

The ongoing doctors and nurses strike

in Kenya has highlighted critical issues within the country's healthcare system. While the government and healthcare workers are yet to reach an agreement, the situation underscores the need for comprehensive

Stephen Ochieng, Media student Rongo University.

Vulnerability At Late Age

By: Paula.O.M.Otukile
Gaborone-Botswana

Camera: Skeem Saam

As years goes, time push without a husband due to various issues mostly women get desperate and vulnerable. Societal expectations and yearning for a family set up makes more women kiss more frogs or fall for fallacy and empty promises.

There are few genuine love stories that can occur during festive season hence it is important to keep home, and enjoy each day as it is.

Economic times are hard, exes, preys are looking at the vulnerable side and many can come in form of red roses and chocolates but not all that glitter is gold.

As age and time goes experience has taught me that both men and women are always experiencing worst heart-

breaks just that men are not much vocal, but we forget the vulnerable group of senior citizens who give it their all and get hurt often.

Relationships are not just for the young hence someone can still get a partner later in life but it is a very slim and rare case in this corrupt world.

Genuinely men and women both get hurt but we tend to stereotype and forget our oldest folks who give it their all when warmth is indicated to their direction.

Let this season bring joy and good tidings to you but also be vigilant and responsible in your matters of the heart, do not open the door recklessly.



Judges And Magistrates Re-Elect Justice Majanja A Member Of JSC

The High Court Judge was first elected to the Judicial Service Commission in May 2019.

By: KBC

High Court Judge David Majanja has been re-elected as a Commissioner to the Judicial Service Commission (JSC), representing the Kenya Magistrates and Judges Association (KMJA).

Justice Majanja will be a member of JSC for another five-year term. He was first elected to the position in May 2019.

He was appointed as a Judge of the High Court in 2011 and is currently stationed at the Milimani Civil Division.

As Judge of the High Court, he has served in various capacities including the Chairperson of the Human Resource Management Committee,

a member of the Audit, Governance & Risk Management Committee, and Learning & Development Committee.

Majanja holds a Master of Laws (LLM) degree from the University of Pretoria and a Bachelor of Laws from the University of Nairobi.

JSC consists of 11 members drawn from various institutions, groups, and interests, with the Chief Justice as the chairperson of the Commission;

Other representatives include; a Supreme Court judge elected by the judges of the Supreme Court, a Court of Appeal judge elected by the judges of the Court of Appeal; a High Court judge and one magistrate, one a woman and one a man, elected by the members of the association of judges and magistrates; the Attorney-General; two advocates, one a woman and one a man, each

of whom has at least fifteen years' experience, elected by the members of the statutory body responsible for the professional regulation of advocates; a person nominated by the Public Service Commission; and one woman and one man appointed by the President with the approval of the National Assembly to represent the public.

The Secretary to the Judicial Service Commission Chief Registrar of the Judiciary.

Justice Majanja .



Doctors At Mbagathi Hospital Perform The First Reconstructive Plastic Surgery

By: Capital Correspondent

The Mbagathi level 5 Hospital has recorded another historic milestone after conducting its first-ever complex reconstructive plastic surgery.

A team of four (4) doctors at the county facility led by Dr. Chaudry Areeb, a specialized plastic and reconstruction surgeon, performed the procedure on 29 year old Benard Sigei, who had been diagnosed with tendinitis as a result of multiple tendon, nerve and vascular blunt injury on the left hand.

“Mr Sigei was referred and admitted at Mbagathi Hospital on Thursday, 23rd May, 2024, for surgery. He was experiencing incessant joint inflammation. He was examined with the aid of the newly installed CT Scan and admitted for reconstructive plastic surgery, which took three hours to perform.” Said Dr Ayeed.

The patient’s surgery expenses were not fully covered by the National

Health Insurance Fund (NHIF), as he paid ksh300,000.

The facility’s Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Dr Alexander Irungu acknowledged the value of the high-end equipments procured during Governor Sakaja Johnson’s reign and refurbishment of theaters as well as upgrading essential equipments that are critical for diagnosis.

“These procedures are made possible after refurbishment of theatres and upgrading of essential equipments with the support of Nairobi Governor Sakaja Johnson” said Mbagathi Hospital CEO Alexander Irungu.

This comes against the backdrop of the recent successful first ever brain surgery, that was performed by a team of medics led by the facility’s first neurosurgeon Dr Tom Mboya in February, 2024.

Mbagathi also set another milestone by conducting cementless hip surgery, also known as Cementless Total Hip Arthroplasty, that replaces a damaged hip joint with an artificial implant without the use of cement to fix the components in place.



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Sports >> *Southampton clinched promotion back to the Premier League after a one-year exile as Adam Armstrong sealed a 1-0 win against Leeds in the Championship play-off final yesterday.

Southampton Return To Premier League As Armstrong Sinks Leeds In Play-Off Final



Leeds United's Spanish-born English striker Mateo Joseph (C) vies with Southampton's Irish defender Ryan Manning (2L) and Southampton's English defender #05 Jack Stephens (R) during the English Championship play-off final football match between Leeds United and Southampton at Wembley Stadium in London on May 26, 2024. (Photo by Adrian DENNIS / AFP).

Southampton clinched promotion back to the Premier League after a one-year exile as Adam Armstrong sealed a 1-0 win against Leeds in the Championship play-off final yesterday.

Armstrong's first-half strike at Wembley ensured Southampton erased the bitter taste of last year's relegation from the top-flight with an immediate return.

Victory in football's single richest match will give Southampton an estimated £140 million (\$178 million) windfall due to the increases in matchday, broadcast and commercial revenue for clubs who reach the Premier League.

Financial experts Deloitte say Southampton could eventually bank £305 million if they avoid relegation next season.

While the cash prize is a huge bonus, it is the prestige of competing with Manchester City and Arsenal, rather than second-tier minnows like Plymouth and Oxford, that fuelled Southampton's hunger to regain their Premier

League status after a year in purgatory.

Southampton, whose only major honour is the 1976 FA Cup, had spent 11 years in the Premier League prior to their relegation.

They will hope this success, celebrated by over 35,000 of their fans at Wembley, is the prelude to another lengthy spell among the elite.

In their first ever play-off final, Southampton made it three wins over Leeds this term despite finishing three points behind the Elland Road club in the regular season.

Saints boss Russell Martin has become widely admired for his purist passing principles and this was the 38-year-old's crowning glory.

Martin was managing in League One with Milton Keynes Dons just three years ago, but he has transformed Southampton in his first season in charge, to such an extent that they boasted more possession than any team in Europe's top five leagues this sea-

son.

Securing promotion at Leeds boss Daniel Farke's expense was a sweet moment for Martin after his Norwich contract was terminated by the German during their time together at Carrow Road in 2018.

Defeat was a bitter blow for Farke and Leeds, who were relegated alongside Southampton last season.

Back to the promised land

American socialite Paris Hilton and movie star Will Ferrell - a minority shareholder in the club - had made good luck videos for Farke's side, but there was no Hollywood ending for Leeds.

On the 35th anniversary of the death of their legendary manager Don Revie, Leeds were well below their best in the club's fourth play-off final loss.

After losing their grip on an automatic promotion place that went instead to Ipswich, the three-time English champions remain without a win at Wemb-

ley since 1992.

With Rain Man actor Dustin Hoffman watching from the stands, it was fitting that the heavens opened over Wembley as a torrential downpour hit just before kick-off.

Leeds made a fast start but Southampton weathered the storm and as the sun appeared through the clouds, they gradually took control.

Will Smallbone threatened to put Southampton ahead with a 30-yard free-kick that was clawed away by Illan Meslier.

It was a warning Leeds failed to heed as Southampton snatched the lead with a clinical raid in the 24th minute.

Armstrong had scored twice in the play-off semi-final win over West Brom and the striker showcased his predatory instincts again with his 24th goal this season.

Cleverly eluding the Leeds offside trap with a well-timed run, Armstrong met Smallbone's pass with a superb strike into the far corner from 12 yards.

Leeds were rocked and Armstrong nearly struck again from another instinctive shot from Smallbone's quick free-kick, but this time Meslier was able to parry his close-range effort.

Early in the second half, Leeds defender Joe Rodon embarked on a rampaging run that looked certain to end in a goal until Taylor Harwood-Bellis threw himself into a last-ditch block.

Leeds pushed hard for an equaliser, but Daniel James' blast cannoned back off the bar before the winger was denied by Alex McCarthy's stoppage-time save as Southampton celebrated their return to the promised land.

AFP

GET THE BEST OF WORLD

Sports >>> *KCB FC will wait a little more to know their opponent in this season's FKF Cup final, after the second semifinal between AFC Leopards and Police FC was abandoned yesterday evening at the Police Sacco Stadium – Nairobi.

Leopards, Police FKF Cup Semi Suspended; KCB Through To Final



Omar Abud (L) of Kenya Police FC tackle Clifton Miheso of AFC Leopards SC during their Mozart Bet Cup Semi-Finals match at Police Sacco Stadium in Nairobi on May 26, 2024. Photo/Sportpicha

KCB FC will wait a little more to know their opponent in this season's FKF Cup final, after the second semifinal between AFC Leopards and Police FC was abandoned yesterday evening at the Police Sacco Stadium – Nairobi.

While KCB edged Kariobangi Sharks 4-2 in post-match penalties, the Police – Ingwe match was stopped midway second half after assistant referee Samuel Kuria was hit with an object from the terraces.

After a quick assessment of their security situation, the Kuria and the rest of the match officials walked out of the stadium for their safety, which led to the suspension of the clash for over 15 minutes before the decision to end it was

reached.

By the time the game was suspended in the 56th minute, Police FC were leading 1-0, courtesy of Titto Okello's goal in the seventh minute.

The South Sudan international was unmarked within the Ingwe's box, and nodded home Kenneth Muguna's cross from the left, having been set up by Francis Kahata. It is expected that there will be only 30 minutes for the two sides to decide the second finalist, behind closed gates of the Police Sacco Stadium. The final decision will however be communicated upon review of the report by the match officials, by the relevant federation committee.

Police were in full control of

the proceedings throughout the match, and it the Salim Babu's charges who looked more intentional to find the net again by the time the match was suspended.

The Hero

In the KCB versus Kariobangi Sharks tie, goalkeeper Faruk Shikhalo was the hero – saving two penalties to give the bankers a 4-2 victory on post-match spot kicks at the same venue, in the first semi.

The game was forced into penalties after a 1-1 draw which extended to extra time.

Shikhalo stopped Geoffrey Onyango and Stanley Wilson's penalties, as Derrick Otanga, Henry Onyango, Danson Chetambe and Henry Ochieng all scored for the

bankers.

Sharks' only two converted spot kicks were by skipper Kevin Luke Otiala and Fredrick Alushula.

KCB broke the deadlock in the 76th minute through substitute Derrick Otanga, but Sharks restored parity just after the restart through Fortune Omotto who tapped into the net from a failed John mark Makwatta's attempt.

The final is set for June 8, 2024 - with a ticket to represent Kenya in the CAF Confederations Cup next season up for grabs.

Citizen Sport

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SPORTS AS THEY HAPPEN



Priscillah Wairimu Kimani



By: Paula Otukile
Gaborone, Botswana

Worth Noting:

- Improving book sales in Africa requires a diverse approach. Firstly, fostering a culture of reading through book launches, festivals and other events sparks interest among readers and boosts book sales.
- Strengthening distribution networks and also utilizing digital platforms will broaden access to a variety of literature and boost the sales.
- Authorship in Kenya is dynamic with a variety of voices and authors contributing to the rich literature. It offers a unique and diverse perspective to both local and global readers
- Modern-day authors such as Qui Qarre and Lexus Mshairi, among others, are pushing the boundaries of poetry by fearlessly manipulating language and embracing a multilingual approach. They are paving the way for new possibilities in poetry.

1. Who are you?

My name is Priscillah Wairimu Kimani.

2. Where were you born?

I was born in Lower Kabete, Kiambu county.

3. When did you begin writing?

I think I started writing in my mother's womb...anyway I began writing creative pieces back in primary school.

Since then, I have been dedicated to honing my craft and exploring different creative genres and writing styles.

4. What should be done to improve book sales in Africa?

Improving book sales in Africa requires a diverse approach. Firstly, fostering a culture of reading through book launches, festivals and other events sparks interest among readers and boosts book sales.

Strengthening distribution networks and also utilizing digital platforms will broaden access to a variety of literature and boost the sales.

5. What do you think about authorship in Kenya?

Authorship in Kenya is dynamic with a variety of voices and authors contributing to the rich literature. It offers a unique and diverse perspective to both local and global readers

6. Who inspires you locally in the world of books?

Modern-day authors such as Qui Qarre and Lexus Mshairi, among others, are pushing the boundaries of poetry by fearlessly manipulating language and embracing a multilingual approach. They are paving the way for new possibilities in poetry.

7. Nonacademic writers must focus on grammar and spelling as well as authentic best told stories what's your take on that considering that

books must be archived?

Every writer should strive to write authentic stories because they are memorable and impactful.

Paying attention to grammar and spelling is important to nonacademic writers since it ensures their stories are clear and easily understood. Books that have good grammar and spelling can stand the test of time.

8. What is your best book?

It's difficult to choose one...but I'd go for Animal Farm by George Orwell. The timeless masterpiece has a lasting effect because its themes resonate across different generations and backgrounds.

9. What is your book about?

'Echoes of Fading Memories' a collection of poems is like whispers from the past, slowly fading away.

It's about moments filled with emotions—love, pain, and joy—echoing softly like distant bells in the quiet night.

In the night's quiet embrace, so many memories threaten to slip away - Unaware of their essence!

In this sanctuary of beautifully crafted verses, their echoes shall stay.

10. Where can one buy your book?

'Echoes of Fading Memories' is available on Amazon and at Nuria Bookstore Kenya.



Priscillah Wairimu Kimani.

